

46 NBC Casts Doubt On JFK 'Plot' Story

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The two key witnesses in the New Orleans investigation of an alleged plot to kill President Kennedy both failed lie detector tests before they testified, an NBC news special will reveal tonight.

NBC today said it has learned

that the two witnesses, Perry Raymond Russo and Vernon Bundy, both took polygraph tests before testifying at the arraignment hearing for Clay L. Shaw, the wealthy New Orleans businessman who is charged with being one of the conspirators.

The revelation is part of an NBC special, "The JFK Conspiracy: The Case of Jim Garrison," which will be seen tonight from 8 to 9 p.m., on Channel 4.

Fred Freed, producer of the NBC special, said it had been learned that there are indications in both tests that the subjects were not telling the truth.

According to NBC, members of Garrison's staff were present when Russo and Bundy were given the tests.

"After at least one of these occasions, a member of Garrison's staff went to him personally and reported that he did not believe the subject was telling the truth," Freed said. "The staff member told Garrison that he did not think the man should testify at the hearing."

Put Both on Stand

But Garrison put both men on the witness stand during the week-long hearing which began March 14. It was largely on their testimony that Garrison established a case strong enough to warrant putting Shaw on trial.

Garrison has alleged that Shaw planned the assassination during a conversation with David W. Ferrie, a pilot now dead, and Lee Harvey Oswald, named by the Warren Commis-

sion as the lone assassin. Oswald was killed by Jack Ruby two days after the assassination.

Garrison has since said that Oswald had nothing to do with the Kennedy murder in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, and that five Cubans fired the fatal shots from a bluff and from behind a stone wall.

Russo was the principal witness at the hearings. He testified that he was present in Ferrie's home when the plot was discussed. Russo, a Baton Rouge, La., insurance man, said he had been placed under hypnosis by Garrison's office to extract his recollections of the meeting.

Says He's an Addict

Bundy testified that he was a narcotics addict and had once seen Shaw meet Oswald on a deserted New Orleans beach where he had gone early one morning to inject himself with heroin.

Garrison reportedly has asked the Federal Communications Commission to prevent the NBC show from being telecast because it was interfering with his investigation.

In another part of the program, a former New Orleans Turkish bath operator, Fred Leemans, will tell how a Garrison aide allegedly offered him money to testify that Shaw had frequented his bathhouse frequently with a man named "Lee," supposedly Lee Harvey Oswald.

Leeman told NBC he first gave answers which he believed they wanted to hear, but later decided to tell the truth, that Shaw "never came with anyone"